

REMARKS

Claims 24-31 are pending herein. By this Amendment, Claim 24 is amended.

Claims 24-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite.

Claim 24 is amended to clarify contacting a gas stream containing at least one of compounds consisting of carbon and fluorine, compounds consisting of carbon, hydrogen and fluorine, and compounds consisting of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and fluorine with a catalyst comprising aluminum and nickel to carry out a reaction with (1) steam or (2) a reaction gas comprising steam and oxygen. Because the scope of Claims 24-31 would be reasonably ascertainable to one of ordinary skill in the art when read in view of the specification, the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 are satisfied. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 24-26, 28 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,069,291 (Rossin).

Applicants respectfully submit herewith a Request for Suspension of Action in order to provide data and/or additional evidence regarding the non-obviousness of the claimed invention over Rossin.

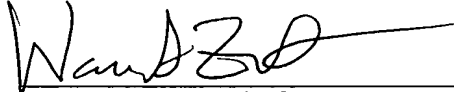
If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this would expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any

deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381AS/50311TR).

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Respectfully submitted,



Warren A. Zitlau
Registration No. 39,085

(202) 624 2849

James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406

JFM:WAZ:vca
CROWELL & MORING, LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 628-8800
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

ATTACHMENT WITH MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

24. (Amended) A process for treating a fluorine compound-containing gas, which comprises contacting a gas stream containing at least one of compounds consisting of carbon and fluorine, compounds consisting of carbon, hydrogen and fluorine, and compounds consisting of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and fluorine with a catalyst comprising aluminum and nickel as metallic components in the form of single oxides or composite oxides and showing a decomposition activity to carry out a reaction with steam [and oxygen] or a reaction gas comprising steam and oxygen at a reaction temperature of 400° to 800°C, thereby decomposing the fluorine compound to hydrogen fluoride and carbon dioxide.